

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 INR-05 NSC-05 HA-02  
NSAE-00 MCT-01 IO-06 SP-02 PM-03 PA-01 DODE-00  
TRSE-00 /047 W

-----123343 011318Z /72

P 011154Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8085

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4115

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, IR  
SUBJ: RASTIKHIZ PARTY CAMPAIGN AGAINST DISSIDENTS

1. IN COURSE OF GENERAL RASTIKHIZ PARTY CAMPAIGN AGAINST DISSIDENTS, PARTY WING LEADER HUSHANG ANSARY HAS BEEN TRAVELING IN SOUTHERN IRAN TO RALLY LOCAL PARTY LEADERS IN SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT. HE RETURNED TO TEHRAN OVER THE WEEKEND. I SAW HIM EVENING APRIL 30 AND DISCUSSED WITH HIM THE GENERAL TENOR OF HIS TOUR.

2. ANSARY SAID THAT, WHEN HE ARRIVED IN ISFAHAN, THE LOCAL LEADERSHIP HAD ASSEMBLED ABOUT ONE THOUSAND CADRE TO MEET WITH HIM. SINCE HE HAD EXPECTED A LEADERSHIP GROUP OF ABOUT FIFTY, THIS GATHERING HAD RATHER TAKEN HIM ABACK. HE SAID HE FOUND THE PARTY CADRE INTENT UPON PHYSICAL ACTION TO DISCOURAGE THE DISSIDENTS AND IT TOOK HIM NEARLY FIVE HOURS TO CONVINCE THEM THAT DISCUSSION AND PERSUASION WERE MORE EFFECTIVE FORMS OF ACTION THAN DEMONSTRATIONS AND CONFRONTATIONS.

3. ANSARY BLAMED THE FEISTY MOOD OF THE PARTY FAITHFUL ON THE STATEMENT WHICH HAD BEEN MADE BY RIVAL WING LEADER MADJIDI IN WHICH THE LATTER HAD CALLED FOR MORE DIRECT  
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PHYSICAL ACTION AGAINST DISSIDENTS. ANSARY REPEATED HIS PREVIOUSLY STATED THEMES THAT ARRESTS AND CROWD CONTROL WERE THE FUNCTION OF THE POLICE. THE PARTY SHOULD SEEK TO USE ITS POWERS TO PERSUADE DISSIDENTS AGAINST DEMONSTRATIONS AND VIOLENCE.

4. I THEN LAUNCHED INTO THE DISCOURSE IF HAVE ALSO DELIVERED TO

SEVERAL OTHER INFLUENTIAL IRANIANS RECENTLY ABOUT THE NAGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF THE HEAVY-HANDED ACTION WHICH "UNKNOWN GROUPS" HAVE TAKEN AGAINST SOME OF THE OLD NATIONAL FRONT POLITICIANS AND AGAINST STUDENT GROUPS. WHILE DISCLAIMING ANY KNOWLEDGE OF WHOSE THESE GROUPS WERE, ANSARY REACTED SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVELY, SAYING THAT THESE WERE INTERNAL IRANIAN MATTERS WHICH SHOULD BE LEFT TO IRANIAN AUTHORITIES TO HANDLE. HE SUBSEQUENTLY RELAXED HIS DEFENSES SOMEWHAT TO SAY THAT THESE ACTIONS WERE CONTRARY TO HIS GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND HE WAS TRYING TO AVERT THEM.

5. COMMENT: WHILE MOST OF THE WESTERNIZED IRANAIN LEADERS ARE EMBARRASSED BY THE RECENT BOMBINGS AND BEATINGS DIRECTED AGAINST DISSIDENTS, THEY SEEM TO ASSUME THAT THESE ACTIONS HAVE OFFICIAL SANCTION AND ARE THEREFORE RELUCTANT TO DO MORE THAN EXPRESS THEIR PRIVATE CLUCKING SYMPATHY.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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